

Special Vision and Goals Issue

Master Planning for Governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest has entered the Vision and Goals stage. In this special issue of *Master Planning News* we are presenting you with some sample Vision and Goal Statements. The Vision and Goals for a master plan help set the stage for later phases of planning. We are beginning to zero-in on the real issues that will determine what the State Park and State Forest will be like in the future. We have drafted these proposed statements as a way to "get the ball rolling" for discussion with the public. The planning team members have put in a lot of time

and discussion to develop these proposed Vision and Goal Statements. Now, we need your help. Please take some time and read through the Visions and Goals for both properties. Do they describe the State Park and the State Forest you envision? If they do, that's great. Let us know. If there are parts (or all) of the statements you disagree with, or ideas you think should be added we want to hear about that from you, too. Your opinion is extremely important to the future of Governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest.

Why are these Visions and Goals important and where did they come from?

Visions and Goals are cornerstones of a master plan. The Vision states the property's overall purpose and is consistent with statutes, DNR Board policies, DNR strategic goals and other guidance. Goals define in general terms, future outcomes or conditions that will transform the Vision into reality. We began by asking experts in forestry, experts in state parks, master planning experts, and the Upper Green Bay Basin Partnership Team to spell out their visions and goals for the properties. When the results were compared, there were some striking similarities, even though the wording was somewhat different. These common themes came through:



- The public will derive certain benefits, uses or products from the resources.
- The site resources are of high quality and should be preserved and protected.
- The resources should be held in trust for present and future generations.
- Public use of resources and preservation of resources must be appropriately balanced.
- Developed facilities should have a rustic theme in keeping with the Northwoods atmosphere.

The Vision and Goals we decide on together will each reflect one or more of the above.

For master plan information call or write:

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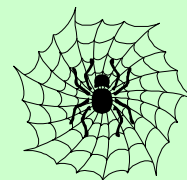
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How You Can Have Your Say in Setting the Vision and Goal Statements

- **Read the sample Vision and Goal Statements in this News issue.**
- **Let DNR know what you think about them by making suggestions.**
- **Respond before November 30, so your input can be used.**

Spend a few moments reading and thinking about the sample Visions and Goals on the following pages. Do you feel they describe how you envision things? Tell us your ideas and feelings. We will be revising the Visions and Goals into a draft that will become an important part of both master plans. Send your response or e-mail to the DNR address below before November 30, 2002.

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Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park Proposed Vision Statement and Goals

Vision Statement

Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park provides opportunities for public recreation and education in a rustic setting. The generally undeveloped and scenic character of the flowage shoreline and forested uplands provide the State Park an atmosphere of solitude, reflection and learning while promoting the continued tradition of a statewide system of parks and open spaces. The park is managed for present and future generations to provide a broad range of individual, community, environmental and economic benefits while providing the best possible service to park visitors and its partners.

Goals

1. Establish compatible, mutually supportive programs with the Peshtigo River State Forest and other partners for resource protection, education and recreation management.
2. Provide and maintain a variety of high quality native communities and habitats within the ecological capabilities of the park's land and waters for public enjoyment, education and ecological benefits.
3. Manage shoreline zones for a natural appearance while protecting and enhancing water quality and aquatic habitat.
4. Identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species.
5. Provide a range of visitor experiences varying from a somewhat secluded and undeveloped setting to a setting with rustic styled facilities providing a relatively high level of user comfort and convenience.
6. Provide and promote accommodating year-round recreational opportunities that preserve the atmosphere of solitude, reflection and learning.
7. Provide seasonal and year-round camping opportunities.
8. Provide recreational access to Caldron Falls Flowage, Woods and Huber Lake.
9. Provide and promote natural resource based education and facilities in relationship to the park surroundings.
10. Provide seasonal and year-around park services to visitors in comfortable, but rustic-styled modern facilities.
11. Limit overall park development to no more than 15% of the total area.
12. Ensure high quality visitor satisfaction and enjoyment of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.

Why are these Visions and Goals important and where did they come from?

Visions and Goals are cornerstones of a master plan. The Vision states the property's overall purpose and is consistent with statutes, DNR Board policies, DNR strategic goals and other guidance. Goals define in general terms, future outcomes or conditions that will transform the Vision into reality. It's OK for State Park and State Forest Visions to be quite different.

We began by asking experts in forestry, experts in state parks, master planning experts, and the park subcommittee of the Upper Green Bay Basin Partnership Team to spell out their visions and goals for the properties. When the results were compared, there were some striking similarities, even though the wording was somewhat different. These common themes came through.

- The public will derive certain benefits, uses or products from the resources.
- The site resources are of high quality and should be preserved and protected.
- The resources should be held in trust for present and future generations.
- Public use of resources and preservation of resources must be appropriately balanced.
- Developed facilities should have a rustic theme in keeping with the Northwoods atmosphere.

The Vision and Goals we decide on together will each relate to one or more of the above concepts.

Peshtigo River State Forest Proposed Vision Statement and Goals

Vision Statement

The Peshtigo River State Forest is a healthy, dynamic forest, which contributes to the diversity of natural communities in the region. The forest is managed for present and future generations to provide a broad range of ecological, cultural, social and economic benefits within its capabilities. The natural scenic beauty of the Peshtigo River, and its' flowages is perpetuated by maintaining the predominantly undeveloped shoreline. Compatible recreational opportunities are provided consistent with the scenic beauty and natural settings found along the river, its' flowages and forestland.

Goals

1. Establish compatible, mutually supportive programs with Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park and other partners for resource protection, education and recreation management.
2. Manage the forest using principles of ecosystem management consistent with the ecological capability of the land.
3. Provide for a variety of renewable forest products and wildlife habitats consistent with the forest's capabilities and other property goals through the practice of sustainable forestry.
4. Provide a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic biological communities, including a range of forest types and age classes, consistent with the ecological capabilities of the land and waters.
5. Provide opportunities for hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing.
6. Maintain and enhance the quality of the fishery and fishing opportunities.
7. Maintain and enhance the natural, undeveloped scenic qualities of the state forest, especially those areas visible from the Peshtigo River and its flowages.
8. Protect endangered and threatened resources and areas of geological, archaeological, or cultural significance.
9. Provide for a variety of quality outdoor recreational activities with a focus on non-motorized trail uses, primitive camping and water access.
10. Cooperate with the existing regional motorized trail network while maintaining environmental quality and harmony with other forest users.
11. Prevent or minimize conflict among different types of recreational uses and among various types of forest uses and management activities.



PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF BIOTIC INVENTORY

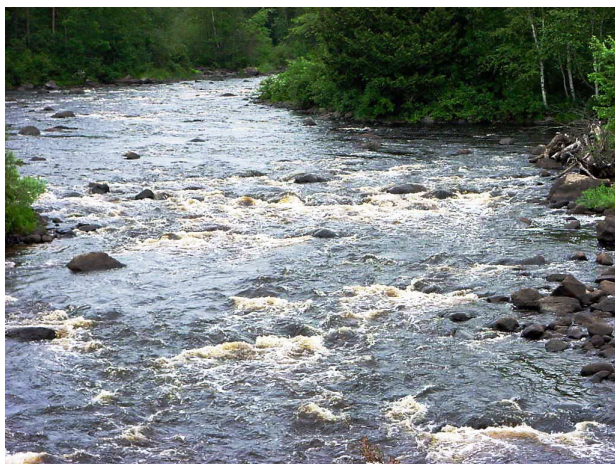
The Stage One Ecological Assessment that was performed by Clark Forestry is an important source document for master plan decision-making. The area studied is adjacent to Governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest. Sites both in and outside of the present boundaries were considered. Twenty-four sites of high ecological potential were identified by the study. Descriptions and lists for forest and wetland communities as well as rare plants and animals are included.

The study found the overall health of the river and the natural communities in the study area to be generally good, with many high quality areas and biotic communities remaining. However, there are also threats to the current ecosystem health. Factors that may effect ecosystem health include development, changes in forest management and succession, deer overpopulation, invasive alien species, and long-term effects on river flow of six hydroelectric dams operating on the Peshtigo River. Recommendations on how to deal with threats to ecosystem health and opportunities are also given.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS - A LOOK AROUND THE AREA

The master planning Core Team asked DNR staff and the Upper Green Bay Partnership Team to put our planning efforts into perspective with the rest of the surrounding countryside. Here is a summary of the findings. Regional analysis details will be available when the plan is drafted.

- Two of the three largest water bodies in this watershed are Caldron Falls and High Falls Reservoirs. Lake Noquebay is the other major lake just east of US Highway 141 at Crivitz.
- The undeveloped shoreline of the reservoirs is an attraction that draws visitors to the resource.
- The project area is surrounded by over One Million acres of county, state and federal forest.
- Motorized recreation is popular, with over 1,700 miles of snowmobile and ATV trail within the four county (Marinette, Oconto, Florence, Forest) area.
- There are very few state parks in the region, only three within a 50-mile radius.
- Development pressures continue to grow in Stephenson Township. Over 60% of the homes in the area are used for seasonal occupancy.
- Water recreation may be more popular than land-based or forest-based recreation.
- There is a shortage of certain types of recreation trails in the region, namely onroad bike trails, ATV trails, horseback riding trails and interpretive trails.
- Camping is a popular activity in the region
- Forest management is important as shown by the large public and private forest holdings.



PROPERTY MANAGER HIRED FOR PESHTIGO RIVER STATE FOREST

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Dan Mertz as Property Manager for the Peshtigo River State Forest. Dan's first official day is November 16, 2002. Dan has been a Department of Natural Resources Forester for the past 22 years at the Wausaukee Ranger Station. Look for a more detailed introduction in our next newsletter.